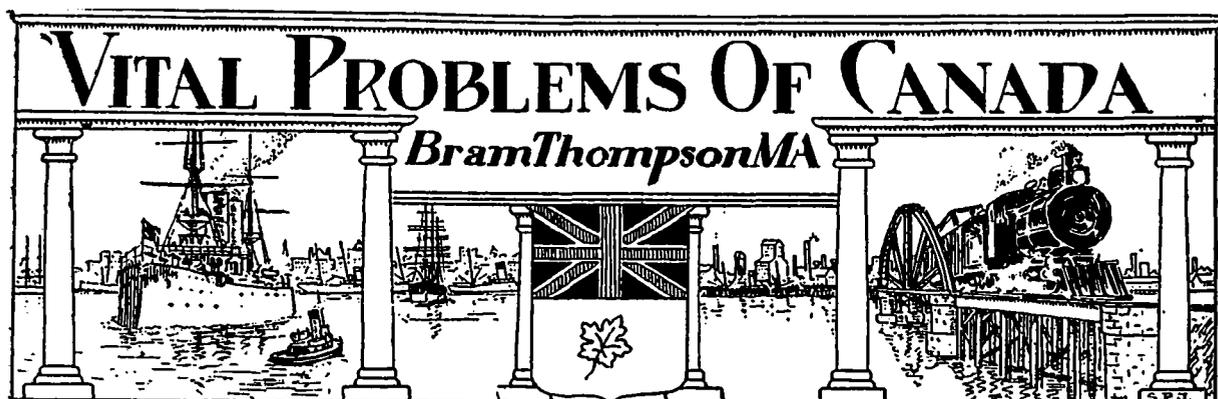


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Canada's Crux.

CANADA'S NATIONAL EXISTENCE, the most Vital of all the "Vital Problems of Canada," has within the past few weeks been forced upon the Canadian people.

'Tis strange, 'tis passing strange, to contemplate the apathy to, or obliviousness of, a problem so momentous, until its sudden projection before the Dominion with menacing mien; and 'tis melancholy to record the fact that Canada was awakened to the Vitality of it by a culmination of circumstances, extraneous to her, and to the urgency for its immediate solution by a movement in which she had no part, though it is a movement begotten of two cardinal articles of her own National creed—patriotism, the love of the people for their own land and Nation; and loyalty to the Empire of which that land and Nation form an integral part.

Patriotism and Loyalty! Illustrious and magnificent parents they are of the glorious twin conception—National integrity and Empire solidarity; but, alas

for Canada! She is, so far, only a proclaimer of a faith, and an applauding spectator of a great co-operative work—a work of others—a work in which she was not only entitled to participate, but of which her own geographical position, her vastness, wealth and resources, and the corresponding instinctive behests of self-preservation, might well have made her the Leader.

Canada has been aroused by the cry of Great Britain in danger; but so profound was her slumber, and so quick was her awakening, that at first she was dazed and unable to appreciate the startling conditions that confront her. Like a blind man suddenly invested with sight, wonder and bewilderment for a time transcended every other emotion; and she could neither form, nor give adequate expression to, a correct idea of her newly acquired perspective.

Canada will become calm and composed, and we have no doubt that the voice of her people will be clear, emphatic, and irresistible in its final enun-